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COUNTRY

East Germany

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SUBJECT

## Supply Bottlenecks in the DDR Chemical Industry

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1. One of the principal bottlenecks in the attempt to make the DDR chemical industry self-sustaining is low production of basic chemicals such as soda, caustic and calcinated, and sulphuric acid. A project is being launched to expand the Soda Works, in Bernburg, Saxony-Anhalt, with the goal of attaining a production level of 1.952 million tons to enable the DDR to export soda.
2. The difficulty in the production of sulphuric acid is the lack of iron pyrites (Schwefelkies). [redacted] drastically cut its usual pyrite export quota to the DDR in the first part of 1952. Attempts to locate and open up further pyrite deposits in the DDR, especially in the Elbingenode/Harz region, have failed.
3. The current failure of the DDR to import sufficient quantities of the following chemical materials is considered serious: iron pyrites - [redacted] are usually the source of imports; caprolactam, required for the plastics industry, normally imported [redacted] 2  
[redacted] thio-urea, a solvent required in the plastics industry, [redacted] 2  
[redacted] and animal bones and skins, required in the production of industrial gelatin and glue.

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